

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the pending claims along with status.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An exhaust valve assembly comprising:
a valve plate attached to an actuation link and rotatable~~movable~~ within an exhaust pipe between an open and a closed position;~~and~~
an electric actuator for ~~moving~~rotating said valve plate; and
a valve neck supporting said electric actuator a distance from the exhaust pipe, said valve neck comprising a hollow tube through which said actuation link extends from said valve plate.
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in ~~claim 2~~claim 1, comprising a support housing mounted to said valve neck for supporting said electric actuator.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein said support housing includes a plate disposed between said electric actuator and ~~said~~the exhaust pipe for shielding said electric actuator from heat.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein said valve neck comprises a tubular cross section having a first mount adjacent a first end for attachment to ~~an~~the exhaust pipe and a second mount adjacent a second end opposite said first end for supporting said support housing.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein said valve neck comprises a cross-section smaller in a direction transverse to ~~the~~said exhaust pipe than a ~~cross section~~cross-section of said support housing transverse to ~~the~~said exhaust pipe.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said electric actuator comprises a linearly movable element, said linearly movable element movable in a direction transverse to an axis of rotation of said valve plate.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The assembly as recited in claim 1, ~~comprising an~~ wherein said actuation tube having link includes a tubular cross section rotatable by said electric actuator for moving said valve plate.

10-13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An exhaust system for a motor vehicle comprising:
an exhaust pipe directing exhaust gases; and
an exhaust valve assembly for increasing a back pressure within said exhaust pipe for reflecting sound waves, said exhaust valve assembly comprising a valve plate movable about an axis of rotation for blocking a portion of exhaust gases flowing through said exhaust pipe, and an electric actuator including a linear element movable linearly in a direction transverse to said axis of rotation for moving said valve plate.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 14, comprising a valve neck disposed about said axis of rotation for supporting and spacing said electric actuator a distance from said exhaust pipe.

16. (ORIGINAL) The system as recited in claim 15, comprising a support housing supported by said valve neck, wherein said valve neck comprises a cross-section transverse to said exhaust pipe smaller than a cross-section of said support housing in a direction transverse to said exhaust pipe.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said support housing comprises a plate disposed between said electric actuator and said exhaust pipe for shielding said electric actuator from heat emitted from said exhaust pipe.
18. (ORIGINAL) The system as recited in claim 14, comprising an actuation tube having a tubular cross section rotatable by said electric actuator for moving said valve plate.
19. (ORIGINAL) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein said valve plate creates a tuning effect replicating an exhaust pipe of a diameter smaller than said exhaust pipe.
20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 14, comprising an actuation tube having a solid shaft rotatable by said electric actuator for moving said valve plate.
21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 14, comprising an actuation tube having a hollow shaft rotatable by said electric actuator for moving said valve plate.
22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 14, comprising an actuation tube having a solid portion and a hollow portion rotatable by said electric actuator for moving said valve plate.
23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 1 wherein said electric actuator includes a first pull coil for initiating movement of said valve plate and a second hold coil for holding said valve plate in a desired position.
24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 14 wherein said electric actuator includes a first pull coil for initiating movement of said valve plate and a second hold coil for holding said valve plate in a desired position.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in ~~claim 5~~claim 1 wherein said valve plate is rotatable about an axis and said valve neck is mounted about said axis.

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said valve neck includes a hollow tube having a first mount adjacent a first end for attachment to said exhaust pipe and a second mount adjacent a second end opposite said first end for supporting said electric actuator.

27. (NEW) An exhaust valve assembly comprising:

a valve plate attached to an actuation link and rotatable about an axis within an exhaust pipe between an open and a closed position;

an electric actuator for rotating said valve plate, said electric actuator including a linear element movable linearly transverse to said axis for rotating said valve plate; and

a valve neck supporting said electric actuator a distance from the exhaust pipe, said valve neck comprising a hollow tube through which said actuation link extends from said valve plate.

28. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 27, wherein said valve neck defines an open space surrounding said actuation link for insulating said electric actuator from heat generated by the exhaust pipe.

29. (NEW) The assembly as recited in claim 27, wherein said valve neck is centered about said axis.